

March 7, 1984

LB 838, 886

nay. Voting on the advancement of the bill. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The bill advances. LB 886.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 886 is a bill introduced by Senator Kahle. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 6 of this year. It was referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee for public hearing. It was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Fenger.

SENATOR FENGER: Mr. President, LB 886 as introduced would among other things permit each county to again set its own income eligibility guidelines to be used to determine who would receive county medical assistance. Currently DSS establishes the eligibility criteria. The committee amendments would eliminate the bill's grant of authority to those counties that would authorize them to set the income eligibility guidelines for the county medical assistance. Under the amendments, the authority for establishing the guidelines would continue to be vested in DSS. That is the extent of the committee amendments and I would move their adoption, sir.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, as Senator Fenger has mentioned, this really guts the bill and again takes out the authority of the counties to have any say over what the costs will be. They will only have the chance to pay the bill. I would urge you to defeat the committee amendments and vote red. I do have an amendment up there that would reestablish the bill as it was originally intended. I have a strong feeling about this because being an old county board member I really don't enjoy writing a check for something that I have no control over and that is what has